

CLASS OF '08 CELEBRATES 101 NIGHTS

By Christina Ament

The Mardi Gras decorated room of purple, green and gold balloons, beads and hats was filled with patiently waiting students and faculty members. Hors d'oeuvres were lined up buffet style ready to be eaten. The senior representatives raised their glasses in a toast to the Class of 2008—and 101 Nights was off and running.

Glad or sad, for seniors, the unofficial countdown to commencement on May 30, 2008, began on February 25 with the celebration of 101 Nights.

101 Nights is a tradition that began with the Class of 1969, marking the fact that there were only 101 more nights left as an undergraduate as graduation approached. In later years, the event was not necessarily held exactly 101 nights away from the end of school, but was merely a way of noting the winding down of the clock for seniors.

This year the event was held at Graziella's Italian Restaurant located on Vanderbilt Avenue across the street from the Dillon Center. The smallish venue still had room for nearly 70 members of the class who were joined by faculty and staff members who came to help celebrate the 'beginning of the end.'

"I was excited to take part in 101 Nights," said Mike Multari. "It was a nice thing for the school to do to celebrate with us and it shows that St. Joe's really cares about its students," he added.

There was an extensive buffet of Italian specialties prepared by the cook staff of Graziella's especially for St. Joseph's. The restaurant often caters SJC events and was pleased to have the event back at the restaurant for the second consecutive year.

"It was nice to be congratulated and acknowledged for all the hard work for the past four years," said Janet Penigian. "It was a great way to gather all the seniors and see everyone in the same spot, which is often difficult to do because senior year is so crazy," she added.

Besides sharing a sumptuous meal together, seniors were given programs created by the Office of Student Life which contained important information about graduation like the new location for the ceremony—the Brooklyn Academy of Music, rather than the mall, where commencement is traditionally held.

The pamphlet also included information on how many tickets each senior would receive, how to order

caps and gowns and what students should do if an alumnus relative would be hooding them at graduation.

"It's already February, so I was wondering when we would find out about these things," said Penigian.

Director of Alumni Affairs Mary Jo Chiara addressed the class and described the history of 101 Nights. She also spoke of the importance of maintaining close ties with the school through the Alumni Association.

Alumni Affairs Specialist Samantha Saines asked the seniors to agree that they would support the Alumni Association with pledges for at least the next three years and top the amount of donations made by the Class of 2007.

Seniors received individual gifts from the class representatives: a picture frame with a clock to signify the countdown, and a champagne glass from the Alumni Association.

"101 Nights is a bittersweet experience," said SGA President Adam Mace. "I am glad to be turning to a new chapter in my life, but after four years, it's tough leaving everything I have done here behind," he added.

It won't be long now until the Class of 2008 has yet another celebration to attend—graduation.



Seniors celebrate 101 Nights

TEAMS LEARN OF HAZING DANGERS

By Christina Ament

A photo of the Northwestern University women's soccer team shows female players wearing T-shirts, shorts, and underwear. Many appeared to be drinking alcohol and others were performing lap dances as a form of punishment, for the Northwestern men's soccer team.

These photos were displayed on a student's online social network site—and all of them were suspended for hazing.

Hazing is the act of forcing individuals to perform debasing or degrading acts as a way of initiating them into a team, society or fraternal organization. The problem has become epidemic on American college campuses and even in high schools.

For such reasons, SJC conducted a hazing seminar on January 30, 2008 for all members of athletic teams and other organizations, and the administration promises to make these seminars annual events.

This year's seminar was the largest yet because of the increase in the number of teams and the addition of a men's fraternity on campus.

Attendance was mandatory for all athletes, fraternity and sorority members and for members of the dance team and step team as well.

The seminar was hosted by Lawrence Q. Alexander II. He spoke about the importance of leadership and doing what is right, rather than what is fashionable. "Leadership is character," was the oft-quoted mantra that Lawrence used during his presentation.

Using a 'sticks,' 'straw,' and 'bricks' metaphor for team styles, he described how 'straw' teams are unstable and look like trouble from the start. 'Sticks' teams strive for outside recognition, but are not concrete inside. But the best type of

team is the 'bricks' team, which has the appearance of success, solid rapport, high membership, and a desire to follow established traditions.

Being a 'bricks' team is what all organizations should aspire to become. In a 'bricks' team, hazing is non-existent because it is unnecessary.

Lawrence also discussed the importance of understanding the phrase, "I am what I do." According to Lawrence, "People cannot be separated by their actions."

Perhaps the most effective segment of the seminar occurred at the end, when Lawrence asked all of the freshmen on teams and organizations to get up out of their seats, go to the front of the auditorium, and face the audience. Then he asked all seniors to stand.

Lawrence pointed out that the seniors went to school for four years, and it was not so that they would be forgotten. Believing in this principle, he made every senior, one-by-one, state their legacy—what they wanted to be remembered for.

Seniors expressed such concepts as hard work, dedication, unity and courage.

Some students felt that a hazing seminar was not necessary at SJC. "Our school is little and students at SJC are more mature," said freshman Melissa Simo.

On the other hand, some students expressed gratitude for the seminar and felt it was important. "I think it was effective and it united all the students who were there," said Antonia Green, another freshman.

Hazing has not been a part of the strong traditions of St. Joseph's College. Exposing the abuses that hazing can lead to is hopefully a way to make sure it never rears its ugly head on the SJC campus.



Athletes learn about Hazing

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EDITORIAL

Big Changes on the Way – Wanna Bet?

Of all the many Machiavellian touches that infect the American political process, none is more apparent than the absurd promises of 'change' that are made during the ramp-up to the Presidential election season.

Oh? You hadn't heard about change? That's strange, because every candidate talkna s about it—swears that they want to be the candidate of 'change.'

Americans, possibly the most gullible and misinformed electorate in the world, gleefully buy into the 'change' mantra with blithe spirits and hopeful hearts—only to find out that after the election, nothing at all changes very much in national politics.

Try to imagine a 1967 Buick sedan. It's partially rusted, the engine is so shot it wouldn't power a mix master and it runs like a lawnmower with sand in its carburetor, the brakes are hopeless and the transmission wouldn't last long enough for a trip to Waldbaum's and back. Now put a fresh coat of paint on it. Looks great! But underneath, it's the same old piece of junk that should be up on cinder blocks in some driveway.

Now try to imagine the United States congress with a new president. Looks great—until you look deeper.

Are voters in the United States so hopelessly naive that they really believe something will change in Washington D.C.? Think about it: when the Democrats took control of congress in 2007, they promised change within 100 days. Uh huh. The last Republican federal budge contained over 8000 pork project earmarks. The first Democratic budget contained over 13,000. Well, no one said 'change' had to be for the better.

So now taxpayers in New York get to pay for the Spinach Festival in East Speedbump, Kansas, because some congressman snuck that into an appropriations bill. Nice.

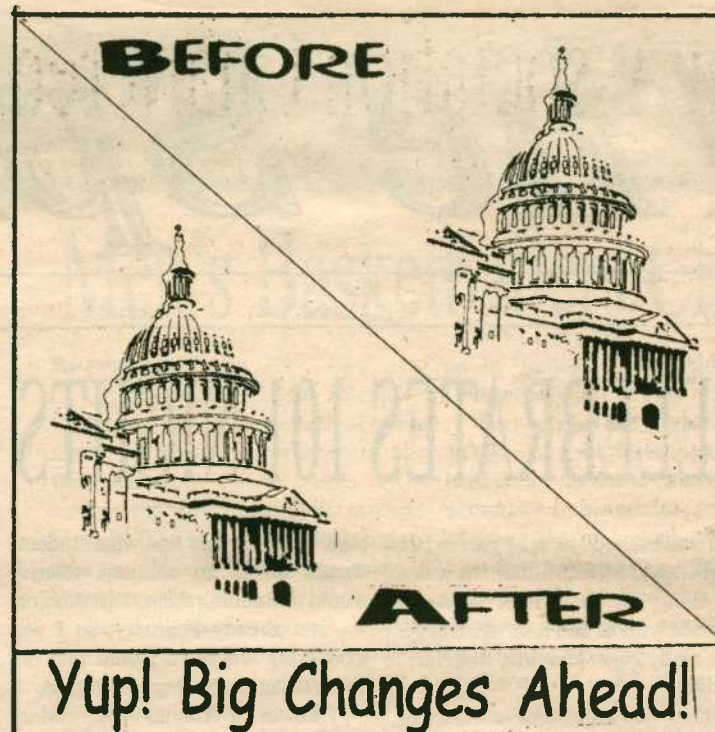
Oh, but the promises of 'change' go on. You've heard them. Everyone wants to help the middle class, who, contrary to popular belief, do *not* bear the bulk of the federal income tax burden. And how exactly will this change? The Democrats have promised an almost immediate repeal of the Bush tax cuts of 2001. This will instantly lead to the middle class having to pony up an additional \$1800 a year in income tax as the tax brackets are restructured. Now *there's* a change we can look forward to!

It's no different from Republicans, who have floated the idea of a 54 cent per gallon tax on gasoline to fund—fund what? The Zucchini Museum in North Carolina? The Ice Fishing Festival in Frozen Falls, Wisconsin? Oh, that's right. That tax will save the planet from greenhouse gases by making everyone take mass transit. It will also see rampant inflation as *everything* that is shipped by truck or plane will skyrocket in price to compensate for that tax. That's *another* change we can all look forward to!

What would *really* be a radical change in Washington, D.C. is some honesty. Wouldn't it be refreshing to have a politician step up and say, "Listen, here's the truth: my aim is to take as much money out of your pocket as I possibly can—and give it to someone else." He or she might not get our vote, but you would have to respect such candor.

No, *nothing* is going to change in America, no matter who wears the mantle of the Most Powerful Person in the World or which party takes control. Can we be so foolish as to believe that senators and congressmen will sacrifice one iota of power and influence for the good of the citizenry of this country? Take off the rose colored glasses and see things for what they are: it's just not happening. Now—or ever.

The American electorate needs to open its eyes and see through the rhetoric and sloganism that has become the foundation of our political system. Only then will we realize the veracity of the old adage, "The more things change—the more they stay the same."



Yup! Big Changes Ahead!

THE SPIRIT

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VERBILIZATIONS

By Jaclyn Verbil

Good Ideas for Everyone -- Except Us!

Think the subways and buses are crowded now? Just wait, because New York City has a plan, and whenever *that* happens, we just know we're in trouble.

The traffic in Manhattan can be brutal at times. Just the other day, I drove into the city and boy, did I regret it! I sat in the same spot for so long, the paint on my car peeled away. "Don't Block the Box!" Uh huh. Nice slogan—but forget about it. The 'box' seemed more like a parking lot than did the actual parking lot!

Oh, and speaking of parking lots, it cost me \$28 to park in one of those—for a mere two hours! That's nearly three and a half hours of work at my job!

Then there's the noise pollution and air pollution. Every car seemed to honk its horn at least once a minute, while the carbon monoxide fumes hung in visible clouds over the midtown streets.

I wonder: do people really think that blowing on their horns makes the cars move any faster?

So the city has several 'plans' (you should excuse the expression) to combat all these motoring evils in midtown Manhattan. The most heralded plan of Mayor Michael Bloomberg is called 'congestion pricing,' wherein cars will be charged extra to come into the city and drive below 60th street during the day.

Rumor has it that during peak hours, it will cost as much as \$20 to enter Manhattan and drive below 60th Street—double that if you are a trucker.

The Port Authority and the City believe that this will cause people to find another mode of transportation by which to come to the city. For

example, they could take the subway, Long Island Railroad or the PATH trains from New Jersey.

Just imagine doing your Christmas shopping in Manhattan and trying to negotiate the subways with eleven bags in your hands and for some people, two or three kids to watch after.

And of course, we can count on the cooperation of the NYPD—who will give you a ticket if you dare put a bag on an empty seat—even in a train that is not full. Now *there's* a good way for the city to make a quick 65 bucks!

As of March 2, the tolls will go up on the George Washington Bridge and the Holland Tunnel from \$6.00 to \$8.00. And if you use E-Z Pass, the rates will also jump if you dare use it during 'peak' hours.

Yes, that's the city's way of helping the little guy out. Give him a tax break on shopping once a year—and then take all the money back in the form of increased tolls. How transparent can you get!

Of course, a second proposal is to offer free mass transit for everyone. This was a proposal that labor mediator Theodore Kheel floated in the 1960s. It's back! But no one seems to be able to figure out how the MTA will buy the 1400 additional buses it will take to handle the increased crowds, now that freebies would become the transit standard.

Nor has anyone calculated how to pay the salaries and benefits for all the new MTA workers it would take to handle the massive influx of passengers. Remember, their starting base salary is over \$12,000 more than a New York City teacher—and that's without overtime.

The MTA guarantees that it can have a bus and a train arriving every

minute of the day to handle all the passengers.

I Have to wonder what they are drinking at lunch over at MTA headquarters.

The misguided people who are in charge of NYC transit honestly believe that New Yorkers will forego using their cars in favor of dirty, smelly and noisy trains and buses.

The skyrocketing price of gasoline hasn't deterred motorists; neither will 'congestion pricing.' Driving has become a way of life for too many New Yorkers and nothing but running out of fossil fuels will ever change that.

And now St. Joseph's College has jumped on the 'green' bandwagon in an attempt to reduce congestion. This semester, the college began to sell a 'green' parking pass for \$25. To enjoy this reduced rate, you had to have at least three students in your car when entering the lot. If you have the green pass and arrive at school without the three others, you are turned away, left to wander aimlessly the streets of Clinton Hill in hopes of finding a parking space before finals week arrives.

Well, it sounds like a plan with some potential, but there are some problems with it. What happens if you and your friends have different schedules? What if someone in your car pool gets sick?

Are we on a slippery slope here? Is the next step banning SUVs or cars that don't achieve the 35 MPG government benchmark?

Cars are very often our prized possession. Being forced out of them into the bowels of the New York City transit system is not necessarily the only way to save the planet.

Student Alumni Association Chartered New Group to Strengthen Ties With Alumni

By Lori Bastien and
Marcia Desrosiers

Among its many accomplishments, the Alumni Association of St. Joseph's College has maintained strong ties with the numerous graduates of the school who have contributed financially to the continued success of the college. They have also actively participated in events that have kept them close and part of the SJC family to which they belonged as undergraduates.

Now, the Alumni Association has chartered a new organization: the Student Alumni Association, whose goals are to bring students together as a way of elevating SJC pride, spirit and tradition by facilitating an active relationship between students and alumni to further the quality and reputation of SJC.

The club is also a means of networking whereby current undergraduates can forge ties with alumni in specific areas which could

lead to employment possibilities after graduation.

The moderator of the new club is Samantha Saines, Alumni Relations Officer '06, who is based in St. Joseph's Hall.

"I'm very excited about this new club," said Saines, "and I hope that our current students gain a lot from it by working closely with alumni in the planning of events," she added.

A Student Alumni Council (SAC) will serve as the governing body of the SAA and membership is by application. Members may come from any class in the school and is also open to P & G students, as is the SAA in general.

A selection committee will choose the first group of officers for the SAC. Subsequent officers will be chosen by election of the membership.

Within the SAA, there will be a number of standing committees such as Philanthropy and Networking. The Philanthropy committee will help

decide the senior class gift and plan philanthropic events to be held during the year.

The Networking committee will plan mentoring/networking programs pairing current students with alumni in specific fields.

The new club already has several events planned including Brooklyn events, on-campus activities and a philanthropic project at Ronald McDonald House and a soup kitchen.

"It is important that we prepare students for the workplace while they are still at SJC so they can more readily find jobs when they graduate," said Saines. "The Student Alumni Association is dedicated to that type of assistance program," she added.

The SAA will meet every other Tuesday during common hour at a location to be announced. Students in all years are encouraged to become involved and strengthen the alumni-undergraduate ties that have been so vital to SJC.



Alumni Association's Samantha Saines

Woodrow Wilson Fellow Discusses Middle East

By Deana Elsayed, Nina Zito,
Michael Labett

Reading about a war zone is one thing, but living in its midst is quite another, but for Janet Wallach, this year's visiting Woodrow Wilson Fellow, life in the Middle East was fascinating, enlightening—and dangerous.

An author, scholar and activist, Janet Wallach has made a career out of studying events in the troubled region and trying to find a road to peace for Jews and Muslims.

Her interest in the area is at least partially based upon her own personal heritage. "I'm Jewish and I've always been interested in that part of the world. My late husband is the son of Holocaust survivors and he covered foreign affairs traveling with the Secretary of State," she said.

The Wallachs lived in Jerusalem during the time that Ms. Wallach was working on one of her books.

"Living in Jerusalem was scary, because of all the violence. It was very dangerous," she said. "We traveled all over, meeting people and hearing their stories," she added.

Ms. Wallach believes that both sides in the conflict, Israelis and Palestinians, have the right to safe and secure borders and that they need to be able to make a living. She also believes that basic institutions such as power plants and water facilities should function properly in Gaza if the Palestinian people are to thrive.

Ms. Wallach notes that "70 per cent of Israelis believe there should be a Palestinian state," but she adds that the Palestinians have refused to compromise and that all efforts by Israeli ambassadors to assist in the establishment of such a state have

been thwarted.

Concerning current political issues, Ms. Wallach believes that any candidate who becomes president must be willing to help stabilize the entire region since we rely upon it for so many natural resources.

To that end, she believes that the United States has always acted the role of the mediator and should continue to do so, especially in Iraq where conflicts exist almost on a tribal level between Shiite and Sunni.

The struggle between the two major factions is about both power and oil. Up until the fall of Saddam Hussein, the Sunnis had been in power since the Ottoman Empire. Now the Shiites have the power—and the Sunnis want it back, along with a share of the oil that for the most part is found in Shiite and Kurdish territory.

Ms. Wallach's interests are far-reaching and are by no means limited

to Middle Eastern subjects. Though she wrote a highly acclaimed book on Gertrude Bell, known as "The Desert Queen," and one of the people responsible for the creation of the modern state of Iraq, she also has written a book on fashion icon Coco Chanel.

"I was a fashion major in college and become interested in her as a student," she said.

She is also the founder, along with her late husband, of "Seeds of Peace." This is an organization that has established a summer camp in Maine for Israeli and Palestinian children. The children live, play and work together, learning how to go beyond their ethnic differences and find respect for one another.

There have been over 4000 graduates of "Seeds of Peace" and in 1999, *60 Minutes* did a feature on the organization.



Linda Wallach at Press Conference with Editors of *The Spirit*



MUSICAL NOTES

By John Castaldo

This Time the Grammys Got it Right!

If for no other reason, 2008 is indeed proving to be an amazing year because I actually watched the Grammy Awards. The opening segment featuring Alicia Keys singing with a video of the late, great Frank Sinatra to "Learnin' the Blues" gave the evening a sense of dignity and class that was so often lacking in years past.

Additionally, it provided a beautiful conjunction of the past and the present. Even more beautiful was the fact that it was *music*. Who knew the United States still appreciates its musical heritage?

It seems that everyone I have spoken to about the Grammy Awards found them to be enjoyable. People are talking about them with a sense of respect; one can even see a smile across my face when I speak of Kanye West's performance. Go figure!

Simply put, the show was put together well. Granted, it was the 60th anniversary of the Grammy, and one would expect the ceremony to be well done, but it was much better than I (and I will venture to say others) thought it would be.

The three highlights of the night proved to be Tina Turner's performance of "Proud Mary" with Beyonce, Kid Rock's performance of "That Old Black Magic" with the legendary 'First Lady of Las Vegas,' Keely Smith, and Amy Winehouse's performance of her hit, "Rehab."

At the ripe old age of 68, Tina Turner appeared as vibrant and full of energy as she was when she was working with ex-husband Ike. Her steps slowed a bit with age, but her

feet flew across the stage with such energy that the 40+ years younger Beyonce had all she could to keep up with her. And yes, her legs still look great!

She opened with her hit, "What's Love Got to do With It?" to a screaming crowd and after another number, Beyonce joined her on the stage. "Proud Mary's" composer, John Fogerty, looked on from the audience. Later in the show, he performed with rock and roll legends Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard.

Kid Rock's duet with Las Vegas legend Keely Smith was also amazing. Keely Smith was discovered and trained by her former husband, the late Louis Prima, composer of "Sing, Sing, Sing." Kid Rock seemed to be channeling Prima in his vocal styling of "That Old Black Magic," and the two had an on-stage chemistry that made it a fun performance for the audience.

Amy Winehouse swept the Grammy's, winning multiple awards including Record of the Year. The talented Cyndi Lauper, who seemed overjoyed at Winehouse's success, announced one of her wins.

Winehouse performed a knock-out rendition of her hit, "Rehab" via satellite from London. The band was tight and Winehouse's vocals were dead on, resulting in a memorable performance that brought the house down.

All in all, the 2008 Grammy Awards was a fantastic event. For those of you who missed it, I hope that the ceremony is released on DVD or that some fans post videos of YouTube so that you can see it.



The Individualist

By Michael Labeit

Toilet Paper Now Comes In Green(back)

With the inevitable recession stage of the business cycle looming, and vain Fed attempts to reverse economic trends that it is responsible for, many have forgotten about another monetary crisis: the fall of our medium of exchange, the dollar. And we have years of central banking for its collapse.

The purchasing power of the U.S. dollar, its price or economic command over goods and services, is at record lows. According to measuringworth.com, "\$5.12 in the year 2007 has the same 'purchase power' as \$1.00 in the year 1971." This means that \$1.00 in '71 would have bought us the same amount of goods and services as \$5.12 in '07.

What happened? How did the medium for the world's economies suddenly collapse? The blame lies exclusively with the Federal Reserve of the United States.

The government, unlike all other enterprises, is inherently coercive. Its defining attribute is that it takes resources from others *by force* in order to exist, unlike businesses which offer material values in voluntary exchange in order to exist.

Taxation, the involuntary expropriation of monetary assets, is just one method of government financing.

But as economist Murray Rothbard writes, "Taxation...is often unpopular, and, in less temperate days, frequently precipitated revolutions....But if government can find ways to engage in *counterfeiting*, the creation of new money out of thin air, it can quickly produce its own money without taking the trouble to sell services or mine gold. It can then appropriate resources slyly and almost unnoticed, without rousing the hostility touched off by taxation."

Voila! This is exactly what our monetary system does. The Federal Reserve, states Rothbard, "attains its commanding position from its governmentally granted monopoly

of the note issue." Instead of engaging in direct taxation, the Fed prints its greenbacks on end, day after day, creating money *ex nihilo*.

This practice, though completely downplayed in economics textbooks, has existed for centuries.

The result, however, is holocaustic. Money abides by supply and demand principles, just like all other commodities, because it is a commodity as well. Its price or purchasing power moves directly with demand and inversely with supply.

So the ritual Fed increases in the supply of dollars over the years has had the agonizing effect of plummeting the purchasing power of the dollar.

The first users of counterfeited dollars, the government, profit from inflationary monetary policies because they are the ones who engage in the initial spending of the money before the inflated money supply is realized by the market.

But the newly created dollars never move uniformly and as they exchange hands throughout the economy, the counterfeited dollars bid up prices; after all, increased demand through spending increases prices.

This has the effect of bidding up prices for goods and services upwards in the face of stagnate wages as people who have not come into economic contact with the counterfeit money or who are on fixed incomes watch a simultaneous increase in prices and decrease in their purchasing power.

This inflationary increase in the supply of money substitutes, unaccompanied by an equal increase in the supply of gold/silver money, is general labor class exploitation.

This implicit 'inflation tax' is especially dangerous because it manifests itself covertly in the debasement of our money. In order to prevent this, nothing short of a full separation of money and State and a return to a 100% gold-backed dollar will do.

SJC Returns to Broadway

Spring Awakening Latest Show Trip

By Nina Zito

Broadway's back! After many quiet nights along the Great White Way, with most theaters shuttered because of the writers' strike, the strike finally ended and thousands of New Yorkers are eager to once again experience the glamour and excitement of a night of Broadway theater.

The Chapel Players and the Council for the Arts at St. Joseph's College are doing their part in getting Broadway back on track by scheduling another "Broadway Night." This time, the trip will be to see *Spring Awakening* at the Eugene O'Neill Theater in Times Square, and St. Joe's is providing tickets and a deluxe coach bus to take the students to and from the show.

In the past, Chapel Players has sponsored trips to shows such as *Chicago* and *Rut. Spring Awakening*, the Tony Award winning musical, is another in this tradition of brining theater to the students of SJC.

Spring Awakening is a powerful musical about teenagers in late 19th century Germany. It explores such themes as sexuality, abuse and suicide. The show is a narrative of uncontrol-

lable emotions and undeniable passions, of first love and lasting regrets.

Most remarkably, the show contains themes that contemporary teenagers will find compelling and very relevant to their own existence.

Spring Awakening received eleven Tony Award nominations in 2007 and won eight, including Tonys for Best Musical, Best Direction, Best Book, Best Score and Best Featured Actor.

"*Spring Awakening* is a powerful and energetic play that deals with all the issues that teenagers have been affected by since the beginning of time," said freshman Jenna DeFillippo. "It affects teenagers of our time because it shows how believing in your own strength can help you face your fears and get you through all the hardships," she added.

In addition to exposing students to live theater, the purpose of such cultural excursions is to allow students to see what kind of cultural opportunities New York City has to offer in general.

"Plays will benefit students by exposing them to different forms of

art and culture," said Adam Mace, president of Chapel Players.

Mace also had strong opinions on the lengthy and very costly writers' strike.

"The writers' strike was illogical and selfish. I'm glad it is over because it deprived Broadway fans for too long," said Mace.

Chapel Players in involved in sponsoring other events on campus. They recently performed in a sketch comedy show (*Chapel Players Live*) on Thursday, February 21 and Friday, February 22 and are readying their spring production of *Twentieth Century* which will open on April 24 in Tuohy Hall.

The efforts of Chapel Players and Council for the Arts have not been lost on the average SJC student.

"I love seeing plays!" said freshman Cory Jones. "It makes me remember that there's so much entertainment in Manhattan," she added.

Tickets for *Spring Awakening* are available in the Student Life Center, Room 101 of Tuohy Hall.

Love for Sale--on Valentine's Day

By Katarzyna Topczewska

It's a day of love and it's a day of fun--and you could tell as soon as you walked into the cafeteria on Thursday, February 14, that love was in the air.

The Valentine's Day Sale, sponsored by the Hispanic Awareness Club, gave an opportunity to friends, lovers, and just plain acquaintances to purchase an item which was a token of affection and devotion to that special someone.

Teddy bears (specially designed for Valentine's Day), hearts, even St. Joseph's clothing--all were on sale in the cafeteria in McEntegart Hall. The brisk business at the table indicated that people had either waited until the last minute to purchase a Valentine's Day gift, or that they just happened to see the perfect item on sale at SJC.

Music was provided by a lively merengue band and for only \$4.00, people could eat all that they wanted. For the price of admission, each guest also received a raffle ticket for a huge Valentine's Day basket.

Tacos, chicken marsala, pasta and rice were just some of the food specialties dished up to celebrate the day.

"As usual, the food was absolutely

delicious," said junior Danielle Rapino.

One of the great surprises of the day happened when during the festivities, the male members of the Hispanic Awareness Club suddenly entered carrying a wide variety of roses, which they distributed to the young ladies in attendance. It was a colorful and unexpected gesture on the part of the club.

"I know that Valentine's Day has become this commercial bonanza for Hallmark and other gift purveyors," said Publications Director Dr. Howard Weiner, "but it's still lots of fun and I always get a big kick out of finding just the right gift for my wife," he added.

The students who attended also seemed to appreciate the efforts of the Hispanic Awareness Club in bringing together all the details of the event.

"It is a great feeling to know that we go to such a small school where we can all celebrate the holidays together," said freshman Cory Jones.

And celebration was the order of business for the day, as Valentine's Day was celebrated with great good cheer on the SJC campus.

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

HOMETEAM EDITION

Want to win a \$25 Best Buy gift card? Just be the first to answer these questions about New York baseball and bring your answers to St. Angela Hall Room 607!

1. Who was the first player drafted by the NY Mets when they joined the National League?
2. What do Yankees Bob Cerv, Stan Bahnsen and Joba Chamberlain have in common?
3. Who replaced Babe Ruth in right field when he was traded in 1934?
4. Who replaced Lou Gehrig at first base when his streak ended?
5. Name 4 Mets who also played for the Brooklyn Dodgers.
6. The last of the legal 'spitball' pitchers ended his career with the NY Yankees. Who was he?
7. He started as a NY Yankee, but gained a reputation as one of the most bungling fielders and players in Met history. Who was he?
8. What external feature of Shea Stadium existed when the park was built, but will be absent when it is torn down?
9. His first name was Selva, and he beat the Yankees 3 times in the '57 World Series--and he started his career as a Yankee. Who was he?
10. Before Babe Ruth set the career home run record of 60 in 1927, who held the record?
11. When he hit his 100th home run for the NY Mets, this former Red Sox player ran the bases backwards. Who was he?
12. What Yankee announcer broadcasted games from "the catbird seat?"
13. This Yankee hall of fame center fielder batted .325 lifetime--including a .356 average leading off in 1927. Who was this great player, nicknamed "The Colonel?"



Hispanic Awareness Club's Valentine Sale

SENIORS!
Don't forget to
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Frosh Spend Common Hour Meeting Majors

Class of '11 Learns of Requirements and Careers

By Katarzyna Topczewska

For high school students, the word 'major' rarely enters classroom conversation. Many freshmen enter college still unaware of what it means to major in a subject area, and what careers those majors could lead to.

To help deal with the confusion, St. Joseph's College held its annual "Meet Your Major" day on Monday, March 3 in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

At the seminar, Academic Dean S. Margaret Buckley served as moderator and guide to the freshman class, explaining the nature of each of 17 majors represented at the conference. She discussed the nature of the courses involved in each program, and the types of jobs and careers each major was associated with.

Students had the opportunity to go

to different department tables and speak to a representative of the academic departments and ask specific questions relevant to course work.

"I'm a psychology major, but as a freshman, I was not sure what areas in the discipline were available to study, so I found 'Meet Your Major' a very helpful experience," said sophomore Marsha Desrosiers.

Child Study majors are faced with the additional task of selecting an area of concentration within the major. These concentrations are usually 30 credits.

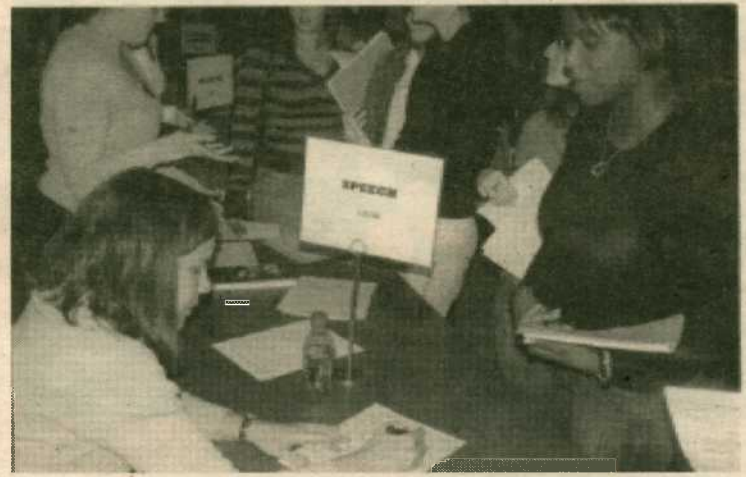
S. Margaret stressed the importance of trying to select a major by April when fall registration will occur. Students who delay their choice of major, or who switch majors mid-stream, often are not able to graduate

from college within four years.

"It's hard to believe how quickly things happen," said Cory Jones, "I mean, I'm a freshman and I have to look so far ahead to what I want to do with my life," she added.

Freshman roamed from table to table, lunch in hand, and were met by such representatives as Dr. David Seppala-Holtzman of the Mathematics Department, Dr. Maria Montoya of the Modern Languages Department and S. Mary Maier and Dr. Jill Rehmann of the Physical Sciences Department.

S. Margaret encouraged students to use the time between "Meet Your Major" and registration to investigate further into the nature of the college's majors by asking question of advisers and professors.



Freshmen meet their majors

Bear Stearns Big Addresses Business Club

By Nina Zito

"Will we think about tomorrow like we think about now/Can we survive it out there, can we make it somehow?" So goes the Vitamin C song entitled "Graduation" and it speaks to the heart of the concern of many undergraduates: where will they go after college?

Finding jobs, going on interviews and choosing a career can be time consuming and stressful; however, with the proper guidance, the future can look enticing and be successful.

SJC's Business Club endeavors to help its members by highlighting business opportunities and job-related techniques. On February 26, the Business Club welcomed guest speaker Joseph Zito, Managing Director of International Operations at Bear Stearns.

Mr. Zito spoke about the business industry, interview process, and the hardships students will face after graduation while looking for jobs.

"It's not always what you know, but who you know," said Mr. Zito, stressing the importance of networking while an undergraduate in preparation for a career in the highly competitive business world.

With so many people vying for the same jobs, especially in sales and trading, it is necessary for candidates for positions to be at their best and strongest during interviews. Sales and trading are areas where employees can get very rich very quickly, so the competition for such jobs is intense.

"I thought Mr. Zito's presentation was very insightful and interesting," said junior Brian Lewicki, co-president of the Business Club. "He

gave us a very positive outlook on what lies ahead for myself and others when we graduate," he added.

Another point Mr. Zito emphasized was the internship process. Internships are essential because they can help students make their mark in a company while still a student. If an employee is impressed by the student's work ethic or positive attitude, it is not unusual for that company to offer the intern a position upon graduation.

"During the presentation, Mr. Zito enlightened all of us on many different aspects of the business world such as resume preparation, interviewing skills and participation in school activities and organizations," said Przemyslaw Kudla, co-president of the Business Club. "The presentation showed us the things we would need to make it in this tough field," he added.

SJC's Counseling Office has a great deal of information on internships that students can apply for, and this dovetails with what Mr. Zito said concerning their importance.

"I think internships are extremely important on your resume for obtaining a job in the future," said Thea Francesca DePaola, president of the Business Club. "The more you have on your resume, the better your chances for getting a job will be," she added.

Mr. Zito explained to club members that numerous business figures have told him that when it comes down to a choice between two candidates for a job, the one with workplace experience in the business

world is most likely to be hired.

Reaction to Mr. Zito's presentation was universally popular with club members, who seemed invigorated and motivated by his talk.

"Mr. Zito was one of the most influential speakers that the Business Club ever had," said DePaola. "Through everything he said, he clearly related to the students in a positive way and what he said was extremely beneficial for business students to know when leaving college," she added.

The future always has a certain amount of unpredictability to it, just like the business world. But speakers such as William Zito can help to clear up much of the confusion about getting jobs and laying out a means for making oneself more desirable to business corporations.

Future speakers for the club will deal with other important areas and themes that students should be familiar with when considering a career in modern business.



Bear Stearns' William Zito



The Culture Vulture

By Nick Souleotis

Show Captures Feel and Flavor of The Bronx

I recently had the opportunity to see *A Bronx Tale* which ended its run at the Walter Kerr Theater on February 24.

The one man show, inspired by the 1993 film of the same name, starred Hollywood's Chazz Palminteri portraying 18 different roles in this tale of growing up on the mean streets of the Bronx.

The play was directed by Broadway Veteran Jerry Zaks, winner of multiple Tony Awards and noted television director. Some of his Broadway credits include 2006's *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial*, the musical smash *La Cage aux Folles*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and the revival of *Guys and Dolls* in 1992.

With second row seats, it was fascinating for me to watch Palminteri create the multiple characters of the drama. A vocal inflection here, a stooped shoulder there—and a new and entirely different character emerged on the stage.

The play offers an intimate view of organized crime and how it insinuates itself into the lives of ordinary people. Set in the turbulent era of the Bronx in the 1960s, the play follows a young man on his path through life, guided by two father figures.

In a large part, the play is based upon Palminteri's actual childhood experiences, so as the author as well as the star, he brings first-hand knowledge to his script.

The play opens in 1960 as Calogero, a young boy, witnesses a murder committed by the local Mafia boss, Sonny. When Calogero chooses to keep quiet when questioned by police officers, Sonny takes a great shine to the boy.

Calogero starts visiting Sonny

and his crew almost every day in the bar downstairs, much to the dismay of his father, a hard-working bus driver, struggling to make ends meet.

Eight years later, in 1968, Calogero has grown into a young man who will eventually have to make the choice between his two mentors, the legitimate one or the crime boss.

Another theme that resonates through the show arises when Calogero pursues an interracial relationship with a black girl named Jane Willimas, forcing him to cope with this while in the company of racist friends who coincidentally attack the girl's brother and his friends. Their aim is to raid a black neighborhood as a demonstration of their bigotry.

There has been a long tradition of fascination with organized crime in American entertainment. Everything from James Cagney's *White Heat* to the *Godfather* films to *The Sopranos* have shown just about every aspect of the crime culture. But the personal and intimate recollections of Palminteri, as a first-hand witness to that culture, contribute to the great success of *A Bronx Tale*. Equally interesting is that the play is performed on a nearly blank stage with minimal set and minimal lighting effects designed by Paul Gallo, whose credits include *Three Days of Rain*, *Losing Louie* and the new Nathan Lane play, *November*.

Such minimalist staging means that the entire success of the production lies in the hands of the single actor who must paint pictures with his words and create a rich texture of characters with consummate acting skill.

In the case of *A Bronx Tale*, Chazz Palminteri succeeds on all counts.

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The Cast of Chapel Players live II



THE TECH HEAD

BY ROBERT MARRIELLO

The Scoop on Bluetooth

Greetings once again! Tech Head, here, for one of my last columns for *The Spirit*. Since I am a senior and graduating soon, I am planning on making my last article of the school year my last article—period. So until that one, let's continue with this issue's topic, Bluetooth, what it is and what it's there for.

Let's start out with what Bluetooth is exactly. I'll skip over all the historical stuff, such as where it got its name, the logo and so forth, and go straight to how it works.

Bluetooth works the same way your wireless router does: by connecting via a wireless signal that actually is on the same frequency as wi-fi, but a different modulation.

Bluetooth works at a lower data transfer rate than wi-fi, meaning it isn't a truly viable internet connection answer currently, but still carries enough data to do things such as transferring personal information, calendar appointments, audio and video.

As a way to make sure that no one can connect to a device they aren't permitted access to, most Bluetooth devices require a password, usually 0000 to be entered into both devices. This allows it to fulfill its original design function of acting as a bridge, allowing people to bring together devices such as their cell phone to their computer, their computer to their printer, and various other things which I will touch upon.

The list of technology that has Bluetooth capabilities has grown significantly since its beginnings. Originally, it was designed mostly for an audio connection between a headset and a phone, but now almost anything has, or can have, a Bluetooth signal.

Aside from the classic phone-headset example, consider this scenario: you are at a friend's house

for a party; you see someone diving into their pool and want to take a picture, so you use your phone. Your friend says he wants a copy of the picture, so he asks you to send it to his computer, which has a Bluetooth dongle (USB add-on). You pair your phone to it (set up a connection between the devices) and by the time the pool diver is looking for a towel, not only have you sent the picture to the computer, but you paired to his new Bluetooth printer and printed a copy out. Pretty neat, huh?

The list of tech goes on from there, from Bluetooth speakers to Bluetooth security locks to at least one example of a Bluetooth controlled car.

There are some important things to know when you are buying Bluetooth. Does the device you are buying have Bluetooth? Will what you are buying work with your other Bluetooth devices? What is the range of the device?

Keep in mind that some Bluetooth devices have a range of nearly 110 yards, while others will cover just a little over a yard.

Now it's time for Fact or Fake. Last time, you had to figure out which was the actual product that was made to resemble R2-D2: a salt shaker, a laundry bin, or a garbage can. The answer (and it's a trick question), is ALL of them—among many other R2-D2 items celebrating the lovable droid.

Now, for my final Fact or Fake, which one of these Bluetooth devices exists: a Bluetooth handset that looks like a retro phone handset, a digital camera that you can control from your phone, or a Bluetooth enabled pen that records your notes?

The answer will be in my next and final column. Till then, this is the Tech Head logging off.

Chapel Players Sketch it Out

Show Highlights Group's Comedic Talents

By Rhomesia Ramkellowan

Live from St. Joseph's College—it's Chapel Players Live!

SJC's resident theater company, Chapel Players, presented its production of *Chapel Players Live Volume 2* on Thursday, February 21 and Saturday, February 23. The show was in the tradition of sketch comedy popularized by *Saturday Night Live* in the 1970s.

The show consisted of small comedic pieces put together into an evening of sketches which included a Weekend Update, a Digital Short, and the Inappropriate Massage Guy to name a few.

The show was hosted by Tom Brown (SJC '07), a veteran Chapel Players performer during his undergraduate career. It was written, directed and produced by Adam Mace, current president of Chapel Players.

This year's cast included Christian Branch, Mike Capizzo, Anthony Catalonotti, Jackie Collins, Chrissy Contessa, Patricia Garcia, Amanda Gavigan, Nicole Guliano, Adam Mace, R.J. Marriello, Andrea Rosado and Shaniqua Smith.

On the technical side, Tom Hoefner (SJC '00) provided the

Lighting and Power Point presentation while Katie Brucas served as Stage Manager.

Contributing writers included Tom Hoefner, Tom Brown and RJ Marriello.

Cast member Mike Capizzo commented that "Chapel Players live is different from every other show because it is sketch comedy and you have to be different characters in every scene."

The costumes were designed specifically for each scene and ranged from T-shirts and blue jeans to huge cowboy hats and sunglasses. A projection screen was used to debut Justin Burke's Digital Short, which as in every Digital Short, gave a whimsical view of SJC by poking fun at Student Life and the Brooklyn campus.

The group Remaining Time was the musical guest for the show. The band included James Ciago on guitar/vocals, Paul Assante on bas/vocals, Chris Byrd on guitar and Samuel Perez on drums. They performed two songs and provided music between scenes as musical guests typically do on *Saturday Night Live*.

"This is our second *Chapel Players Live* and though I have

directed and produced a few Murder Mystery Dinners, this is the first Chapel Players show that I am directing and producing by myself," said Adam Mace.

Raffles for autographed Broadway posters were on sale and included posters from shows such as *The Little Mermaid*, *The Lion King*, *Mary Poppins* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Half of all the proceeds from the show were donated to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. The not-for-profit AIDS fundraising and grant-making organization raises funds for AIDS-related causes all across the United States.

There was also a special appearance by Gabriella Hoefner. The one-year-old daughter of Chapel Players director Tom Hoefner and Jaime Vacca-Hoefner impressed everyone when she made her Chapel Players debut.

Additionally, SJC's Royal Steppers appeared in the first scene which was entitled, "The Royal Stepper Auditions."

"The show was extremely creative, hilarious, and I had a really great time," said Marie Yves Guisment. "The band was great and their music was fantastic," she added.

Cocktails and Auction Raise Big Bucks for Dillon Center

By Lori Bastien

Providing quality pre-school education is an expensive proposition in the 21st century, and it is no different for the Dillon Center, St. Joseph's College's own sponsored school.

There are always things that Dillon Center needs. Possibly supplies, perhaps new equipment, anything that can enhance the education of the 98 children who call the school home.

The solution? One way in which the problem of fundraising was addressed took place at the Dillon Center on February 8th from 7 PM to 10 PM—a Cocktail Party and Auction.

Over 100 tickets were purchased to the cocktail party at a price of \$20 for an advanced purchase or \$25 for tickets bought at the door, mostly by parents of the children and teachers on the 14 member staff of the school.

Planned by Dr. Susan Straut Collard, Director of the Dillon Center, her Senior Administrative Assistant Sharon Waverly, and parents of the children, the First Annual Cocktail Party and Auction is an example of what a small group of dedicated individuals can accomplish.

Consider some of the items that were auctioned: lodging for 1 week in Paris (a \$1500 value), a wine tasting party for 6 (a \$400 value), 12 weeks of child's yoga classes (a \$245 value), a weekend in a beach house on Long Island's North Fork, 6 months of home-baked desserts delivered to your home by professional baker Jessie Sheehan—the list of auctioned

items went on and on!

Astonishingly enough, one of the auctioned items was Teatime for Two at your home—with the current Miss USA Rachel Smith, who would talk to your children about what it takes to win the coveted title!

How in the world did such an assortment of incredible items wind up in the same place at the same time? Again, the answer is the dedicated parents of the Dillon Center children who donated many of the items themselves, or manned the phones soliciting gifts from companies and other individuals.

And the food! The list of local establishments that provided appetiz-

ers and other foods for the party reads like a 'Who's Who' of Brooklyn dining. Included in the donors were: Ici, Choice, Sushi D, Luz, Olea, Graziella's Maggie Brown, Cheryl's Global Soul, Salazar's, Jum Kau, Bonita, Il Tochio and many others.

The wine for the cocktail party was donated by Greene Grape & Thirst and the beer was the gift of Union Beer.

This was the first time the cocktail party and auction was held, but the results were amazing. Over \$12,000 was raised by the event.

"The event was very successful and a lot of fun," said Dr. Collard. "I hope we do it every year!" she added.



Dillon Parents Bid on Items at Auction

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

What's your favorite thing about being a St. Joseph's College Student?



My favorite part of St. Joseph's is the people I've met and the support that surrounds me.

—Antonia Green



The food service is superb. It is a friendly environment, and everyone here is supportive of each other.

—Jessica Shounoun



My favorite thing is being able to catch up with friends during Common Hour.

—Daphney Etienne



I like the attention you receive from faculty and the relationships that you can develop.

—Yolanda McDonald



I like the events the school has—and the fact that I'm surrounded by so many girls!

—Anis Papando



I like that it's small. The people you like, you see everyday, and I also like the one-on-ones with the professors.

—Justyna Dawidowska



You know everyone, as opposed to being in a big school. It has a more personal feeling.

—Santia Thermoier



Students get more complete attention from professors here, and they have a lot of events and guest speakers that promote our knowledge.

—Khaing Win



The professors care about how you do. There is a family atmosphere within the school and people who share common interests.

—Annabel Merisier



The people in this school are generally nice. They make it easy to make the transition from high school to college.

—Dilruba Ahmed



I like the dedicated faculty, the diversity of the student body and the many opportunities for us.

—Kajal Dalal



I like the opportunities that Child Study majors get to experience field work and learn in those classrooms as undergraduates.

—Tara Vafiadou

The Election that Never Was

SGA Candidates Run Unopposed

By Malcolm Johnson

It was almost what one would expect in a former Soviet Socialist Republic: an election where the slate of candidates ran unopposed in a pro forma nod to following the will of the people.

But unlike those totalitarian regimes, the unopposed elections for St. Joseph's College's Student Government Association were not the result of a decision made by 'the party,' but rather by the apathy of SJC students when it came to running for office.

On Monday, March 3, incumbent SGA president Adam Mace took the stage to present the candidates running for office for the 2008-09 school year.

Typically, the Election Forum is an opportunity for candidates to take the floor and address the senate and interested students about what they would do, plan and work for if elected to office.

This year's Election Forum, however, was atypical at best. This year, the candidates for each position ran unopposed. Therefore, the new SGA officers are Christian Jocelyn, president, Leandra Derico, vice-president, Christina Contessa, secretary and Carelle Cherebin, Treasurer.

The officers-elect were introduced and presented to the senate in preparation of their beginning terms of office when the current officers' terms expire.

"I wish more people would have run, but some years you get people, and other years you don't," said Mace as he recollected his own run for the office of president against current SGA parliamentarian, Schaeffer Charles.

"Mine was a long and hard-fought race," said Mace, reflecting upon his year at the helm of the student government.

"It is very bitter-sweet leaving the presidency," he said. "It was a goal of mine for years to be the president. It is hard to believe it is ending so soon, but in this short year, I feel that I have accomplished so much," he added.

One of his accomplishments occurred when he chaired the committee that formed the 2007 SGA Leadership Workshop, a recreation of the old Senate Workshop.

He also succeeded in raising the student activities fee, which now devotes more funds to the various student activities and programs on campus.

But probably his most enduring legacy is the rewriting of the SGA constitution, which had not been overhauled in years.

"I guess though it is sad leaving office, it is also a great feeling knowing that I made a difference in my presidency and didn't just waste the position," said Mace. "I wish the new SGA the best of luck and I know that they will not only build on what I have done, but also create new things in order to make the college even better in the future," he added.

With the Student Government Parliamentarian an appointed position, and Campus Activities Board positions awarded by SGA determined by applications and interviews, the actual elections this year have little meaning.

Either SJC students are too involved in other activities to consider running for office, or they simply are not concerned about the democratic process on campus. One way or another, the year 2008 will go down as the year of the election that never was.



SGA President Adam Mace



Eye on Fashion

By Samanta Labady

Get Ready for Spring Style

Flashing lights, long runways, tall models, famous faces and hot designers are just some of the many ingredients that made up Fashion Week in New York City this February.

Though this Fashion Week show-cased the fall lines for 2008, I want to backtrack to September 2007's Fashion Week which highlighted the fashions for the spring of 2008.

So you want to know what's going to be in for this spring? Well, I've got some answers!

Let's begin with the women. It's time to kick out those blacks and other dark colors from the fall, because bright bold colors will be in. These colors include daffodil yellow, vermillion, orange, verdant green, hibiscus red, bold fuchsia, wild violet and cobalt blue.

Now just because these colors are in does not mean to get crazy; your entire ensemble does not have to be bright and bold. Instead, the colors can just be an accent.

Some other noticeable and upcoming trends are floral and safari prints, sheer styled blouses, and the '70s retro look (which includes high waist pants, bell bottoms, platform shoes, retro prints, off the shoulders shirts and other '70s accessories).

As for the men, concerning styles and colors, believe it or not, there were many different shades of pink on display on the runway. I know most men are turned off by pink, but it's a question of how you wear it.

Not to worry if you just can't deal with pink. Other classic color schemes such as olives, caramels, classic blacks and silver-gray colors are still in.

Fitted, bold button-downs are a plus and for all those men that love the rock inspired look, lace up pants and leather jackets filled with zippers in many different styles are in.

Be careful with these trends; you never want to let the clothes wear you; it should be the other way around.

There are many more trends for both men and women, but far too many to name, so keep an ear to the ground and an eye peeled for the ones not listed here.

An easy way to begin is with St. Joseph's own highly successful Fashion Club. Their last fashion show was filled with excitement, color, hot trends and hot models.

Some scenes included black and white, accessories, business clothing, and my favorite—freakum dress, where our lovely female models made jaws drop with their eye-popping dresses matched with a fierce catwalk.

And don't forget the fellas who wooed the ladies with their good looks and sexy walks. The club was even lucky enough to have a designer, sophomore Sade Peters, who not only designed some of the clothing for the show, but actually made some of the outfits herself.

Stay tuned and look out for the next fashion show coming very soon. And do not be afraid to join the club. There are no size or height requirements for models, and for those who would rather work behind the scenes, there are plenty of jobs available to help out with.

Look at the campus bulletins for information about meetings, or for further information, send an email to Sjcfashionclub@yahoo.com.

I encourage everyone to join the Fashion Club. You will love it!

Now that you've had a taste of what to expect next season, go out and put these fashions to good use. Make each trend work for you in your own way and style.

There are plenty of opportunities to showcase your uniqueness, even right here at St. Joe's! So take advantage and always dress for success!

ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS



THE SPORTING LIFE

BY MARK WILSON

Sports and Politics – Both Fact-Based?

Every morning, like most Americans, I sit at my computer and check two things: American politics and the New York Mets website.

These two seemingly opposite ends of the spectrum are, in fact, quite similar. After all, presidential candidates are striving for wins in the primaries, and aren't the Mets, Yankees or any other sports team always looking to put up big numbers in the wins column?

Candidates also love to carry on smear campaigns, always looking to degrade the character of their opponents. In the same respect, little leaguers are always heard yelling such chants as "We want a pitcher—not a belly itcher" or "We want a batter—not a broken ladder." Aren't big leaguers always accusing their opponents of doctoring baseballs and corking bats? Both politics and sports are, in some respects, psychological.

In recent days, politics and sports have actually become intertwined. Anyone who has been awake the past few months has to be aware of the steroids scandal in MLB. Congress, believing baseball failed to regulate itself, has stepped in and began hearings into the use of illegal substances amongst major league ballplayers.

As a result of this, all over the news we can see Roger Clemens answering questions from agitated congressmen. Whether or not he's telling the truth is another story altogether.

While there are many similarities amongst sports and politics, and while politics and sports are ever comingling, we, as Americans, cannot allow our sports mentalities to influence our political ones.

Being a Mets fan, I cannot help but getting involved in heated arguments with Yankees fans about who's the best team in New York. For those who don't know how this argument usually works, it goes something like this:

Yankee Fan: The Yankees are da best!

Mets Fan: Why?

Yankees Fan: 'Cause they are.

Mets Fan: Yeah, but why?

Yankees Fan: 26 World Champion-

ships.

Mets Fan: Um, okay, but what have they done recently?

Yankees Fan: Jeter's mad good. Curse of da Bambino.

Obviously, there is little thought process going on here. The Yankees fan isn't backing up his opinion with facts. He fails to mention how the Yankees have been eliminated from the playoffs in the first round over the past few years, or how they haven't won a World Series in over seven years.

Don't get me wrong. This conversation could be switched to any sports fan. A Mets fan could argue that they are the best, while failing to mention their devastating collapse last season—or that almost none of us were born the last time they won the World Series.

When rooting for a team, fans don't think with their heads; they think with their hearts. They don't want to hear about facts, especially when those facts may put a damper on their excitement and passion for their team.

While the fans may be annoying to have conversations with, little harm comes from them, except for maybe the occasional barroom brawl or ballpark spat; however when one thinks this way in terms of politics, it can be far more dangerous.

Nevertheless, as incomprehensible as it may sound, many American voters do vote based more on emotion, rather than fact-based judgments and viewpoints.

Like the Yankees fan, many voters will not think logically. Some people may vote for a candidate like John Edwards or Mitt Romney because they are simply good looking. Other people, though knowing very little on where a candidate stands, may vote for Barack Obama simply because he is an African American, or others may vote for Hillary Clinton simply because she is a woman. Though these may be minimal factors in voting, one should vote based on issues rather than emotions.

When ignoring facts as a sports fan, one may say that 'ignorance is bliss.' When ignoring facts as a voter, ignorance is just plain dangerous.

Men's Basketballers Champions at Last!

By Przemek Kudla

History is what the St. Joseph's College Men's Basketball Team made on Sunday, February 16, at Pratt Institute.

For the first time ever in the history of the college, the Bears have won the Hudson Valley Conference championship.

It took the team almost a decade to do it, and from the way the season began, it has to rank as one of the great Cinderella stories in the history of SJC sports.

After a miserable 5-10 start, possibly one of the worst in the history of St. Joe's sports, the resilient Bears went on to close the season with a 7-2 run, winning the last 4 games in a row.

To say that the team overcame adversity is an understatement. Midway into the season, the Bears lost starter Justin Gist and backup Lewis Monaco for reasons of academic ineligibility. With the loss of these two key players, the slack was picked

up by juniors Ervin Maddox and Chemack Kudla.

That wasn't all for the Bears, though. Several weeks later, Dane Bruce had to leave the team and withdraw from school for family reasons. He was a starter and an essential ingredient in the Bears' success. His rebounding skills and positive energy were hard to replace once he left the team.

Then, on a much sadder note, the Bears family suffered a tragic loss with the passing of Mr. Michael Olaskiewicz, father of senior Chris Olaskiewicz. He was a supporter of each and every player on the team and was present at both home and away games for the last 3 seasons.

Mr. Olaskiewicz was a friend to everyone on the team and his loss affected the team greatly.

However, while all these personal losses were taking place, the Bears still had a full schedule to play.

Senior and team captain Chris Olaskiewicz made a statement during

one of the team's practices, saying, "No matter who or where we play, I know we can still win a championship with the guys we have on the team right now!"

At the time, many people doubted him, but the captain's words turned out to be prophetic. The Bears went on to beat the Berkeley Knights 74-54.

In the 2006-07 season, the Bears had a 21-11 record, but came up short in the Hudson Valley Championship game, losing to Berkeley by one point. This year, the team finished at an even .500 with a 12-12 record, but went on to win the championship game by 20 points and bringing home the conference championship.

The year 2008 is already known as the year of the upset, with the Giants miraculous win over the Patriots in the Super Bowl. Now, the St. Joseph's College Bears, underdogs all the way, have joined the select company of teams that have overcome adversity and achieved greatness.

The SJC Bears—champions at last!



Two for Mike Dziewit



The 2007-08 Lady Bears

Lady Bears Fall Just Short in Title Quest

By Przemyslaw Kudla

Close—but not close enough. That sums up the 2007-08 season for the St. Joseph's College Lady Bears Basketball Team.

The team came up just short of a championship crown after bowing to a strong St. Elizabeth's College team by 7 points in the semi-finals of the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference championship tournament.

With a minute and thirty seconds left to play, the game was still close, with the Lady Bears down by a single point, 64-63. But then St. Elizabeth's went on a run, knocking down several key free throws, and putting the game out of reach.

In the contest, Allison Kavanagh, Tara Deahn and Annamarie Corciari all had very strong performances, scoring 16, 18 and 10 points respectively.

February 13, 2008 was Senior

Night for the Lady Bears and it was a memorable occasion for the team as the squad's three seniors, Annamarie Corciari, Tara Deahn and Svetlana Medvedeva played their last game for SJC.

This year, Corciari scored her 1000th point, putting her at number 5 on the all-time St. Joseph's College scoring list. Medvedeva was named the USCAA Player of the Week for the week ending January 6th for her stellar play against Old Westbury.

Coach Frank Carbone and Assistant Coach Walter Sanchez will be hard pressed to replace these three players who have been the backbone of the Lady Bears since their freshman year at St. Joe's.

Overall, it was a tough season for the Lady Bears. Faced with a difficult schedule, the team finished with a 10-16 record, its first sub-.500

season in years.

Injuries played an important part in the team's struggles and it was a season when for the most part, the ball always seemed to bounce the wrong way for the team.

The 2008-09 season is already shaping up to be a rebuilding year. New and young players must be found to replace the veterans, and bench players this year will have to step up to starting roles in the team is to be competitive in its quest of a conference crown.

"It's sad closing out your college athletic career," said Svetlana Medvedeva, "but I am confident that my returning teammates will carry on the tradition we established and return St. Joe's to championship contention next season," she added.

Strong recruiting, rigorous practice, and vital on-court chemistry for 2008-09 will ultimately tell the tale.

WANTED!

**Athletes for Fall Teams
Inquire in the Athletic Office!**